

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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State Troopers Step Up Patrols for Holiday Safety

MONTGOMERY – Enjoy the Christmas and New Year’s holidays, but know that Alabama state troopers will be out in force during the season, stepping up enforcement activity in an effort to protect the lives and safety of Alabama motorists.

“This is an exciting time of year, and we want you to really enjoy the holidays with your loved ones, but please make highway safety a priority,” said Col. Hugh B. McCall, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

Public Safety’s holiday safety initiative includes extra patrols, sobriety checkpoints, line patrols and LIDAR speed detection. Troopers also will target other violations that often contribute to crashes, including speeding, following too closely, driver distraction and improper passing.

In addition, troopers will partner with law enforcement and traffic safety agencies throughout the state and nation to aggressively work to curtail impaired driving. McCall added, “If your holiday celebrations include alcohol, designate a nondrinking driver or make other arrangements to be sure you – and others on the road – get home safely.”

This extra enforcement effort is made possible through grant funding provided by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs’ Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Section.

The 78-hour Christmas travel period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, and ends at midnight Monday, Dec. 26. In 2010, five people, including two pedestrians, died in traffic crashes on Alabama roadways during the 78-hour Christmas travel period. Alcohol was a factor in at least one of these deaths, and two of the three vehicle occupants killed were not using seat belts.

The 78-hour New Year’s travel period extends from 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, through midnight Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. Last year, 14 people, including five pedestrians, died in traffic crashes in the state during the 78-hour New Year’s travel period. At least four of the deaths involved alcohol, and at least five vehicle occupants were not using seat belts.

for more information contact:

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://dps.alabama.gov/>